

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 August 2005 (18.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/075972 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G01N 27/62**, 30/72
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2005/000412
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 February 2005 (07.02.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 0402639.9 6 February 2004 (06.02.2004) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **STATOIL ASA** [NO/NO]; I & K IR PAT, N-4035 Stavanger (NO).
- (71) Applicant (for MG only): **POWER, Philippa** [GB/GB]; Frank B. Dehn & Co, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ZAHLESEN, Kolbjorn** [NO/NO]; Steinhagen 11, NO-7049 Trondheim (NO). **EIDE, Ingvar** [NO/NO]; Ole Nordgaardsvei 4A, N-7049 Trondheim (NO).
- (74) Agent: **FRANK B DEHN & Co.**; 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: FINGERPRINTING OF COMPLEX HYDROCARBON CONTAINING MIXTURES

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method of analysing a complex hydrocarbon-containing mixture, the method comprising the steps of: obtaining a liquid sample of the complex hydrocarbon-containing mixture; injecting the sample into a liquid carrier flowing to a mass spectrometer, wherein the mass spectrometer is set so as to ionise molecules in the sample without causing fragmentation thereof; recording a mass spectrum for ions obtained from the sample; and using the mass spectrum to obtain fingerprint of the mixture. In one embodiment, two or more mass spectra are recorded and are combined to obtain a fingerprint of the mixture.

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